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## A Spirit of Defiance Reviving in Prague Despite Occupation

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PRAGUE, Nov. 29—"The reports of our death are vastly exaggerated," a Prague professor remarked today, commenting on the Czechoslovak political scene.

His sentiment, clearly shared by Czechoslovaks at all levels, of society, was a reminder that Czechoslovakia has not yet abandoned the struggle to retain her political identity and management of her own affairs despite more than three months under Soviet military occupation.

In the curious way in which moods change so rapidly and profoundly in Czechoslovakia, this week has been a relatively optimistic one. A bearded student summed up the mood by saying, in English, "We shall overcome—sooner or later."

In the last several days, the Czechoslovaks have made a number of gestures of defiance after a period of despondency that followed the recent session of the Communist party's Central Committee, at which hard-line measures were approved to curb the country's reforms.

Last night, the Presidium of the National Assembly, the Czechoslovak Parliament, demanded that the Government adopt urgent measures, including a diplomatic protest to the Soviet Union, to prevent the distribution of the Czech-language daily propaganda newspaper, Zpravy, which is published by the Soviet military occupation authorities.

The 30-member Presidium said Zpravy was distributed here in violation of Czechoslovak laws since it is not registered. The Presidium instructed the Government to submit a report on the steps it had taken to halt the paper's distribution.

It charged that the manner in which Zpravy was edited and distributed "impedes the efforts at 'normalization' and the strengthening of Czechoslovak-Soviet relations."

The National Assembly's Presidium acted after Dr. Frantisek Kriegel, a controversial Deputy, had protested the month-long suspension of the weekly magazine, which was unjustly attacked in a recent issue of Zpravy.

Dr. Kriegel, a noted physician and once a top reformist leader, was removed under Soviet pressure last September from the Presidium of the Communist party's Central Committee. He had been among the group of Government's press and information office resigned last night in protest against a demand against an outspoken Slovak youth daily Smena.

Moscow by the Russians after the invasion. Dr. Kriegel has been steadily denigrated by the Soviet press and some old-guard Czech Communists. The attacks have been promoted in part, some observers believe, because he is Jewish. Dr. Kriegel had been destined to political oblivion and assigned the modest role of a Prague hospital administrator.

But he has been returning to political activity. Following his protest yesterday, the Assembly's Presidium declared that Zpravy had libeled Dr. Kriegel and formally condemned the article.

### Travel Curbs Challenged

Simultaneously, the Cultural Committee approved a resolution requesting the Attorney General to report what measures were being taken to suppress the "illegal" distribution of Zpravy and "other illegal printed matter on Czechoslovak territory."

Prague newspapers, including Rude Pravo, the official Communist paper, prominently reported this morning on both actions of the National Assembly.

The Presidium also challenged the Prague Government publicly over the validity of its new regulations restricting free travel to the West.

Under new rules effective tomorrow at midnight, permanent multiple-exit visas for the West are to be canceled. Single-trip exit visas are to be granted on individual merit, where they do not conflict with "the interests of the state."

The National Assembly instructed its Constitutional and Foreign Committees to determine whether these new regulations were in accordance with basic legislation.

On the highly controversial question of press freedoms, the Cultural Committee closely questioned Josef Vohnout, director of the new press and information office, on the workings of censorship, which was reimposed after the invasion.

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### Yugoslav Holiday Acclaimed

The Czechoslovak insistence on using their press freely to express their political views was illustrated once more this morning in prominent display given to congratulatory telegrams sent by this nation's leaders to Yugoslavia on the 25th anniversary of the proclamation of this country's Communist system.

Rude Pravo, printed a two-column top-of-the-page headline over the messages to the Yugoslavs.

With Yugoslavia remaining the only Communist nation in Europe, aside from Chinese-backed Albania, to defy Moscow, the outpouring of congratulations to Marshal Tito was clearly significant. A Society for Czechoslovak-Yugoslav Friendship was also formed here this week.

The controversy over press freedoms is a major example of the difficulties encountered by the Russians in trying to stifle free expression in this country.

Electric power workers in northern Czechoslovakia's industrial regions have warned that they may "pull the plugs" and stage a crippling strike if "anything happens to journalists."